AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The claims in this listing replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Previously Presented) A file management method comprising:

recording on a recording medium and managing a distributed object and a metadata file, the metadata file being an individual file comprising information related to the object and used to retrieve, categorize, and organize the object,

wherein correspondence between an identifier of the metadata file and an identifier of the object corresponding to the metadata file is managed by a metadata correspondence management file.

2. (Previously Presented) The file management method according to claim 1, further comprising:

managing the object and metadata file on the recording medium by a directory structure,

wherein a record type indicating a placement location of the metadata correspondence management file within the directory structure is provided in the metadata correspondence management file.

3. (Previously Presented) The file management method according to claim 2, further comprising:

creating and managing a service directory for each service by which the object is distributed,

wherein said record type indicates that the metadata correspondence management file is placed under the service directory.

4. (Currently Amended) The file management method according to claim 3, further comprising:

recording ~~on the recording medium a package directory for each~~ a package directory, associated with a package file ~~with~~ having at least one content, to the recording medium,

wherein the record type indicates that the metadata correspondence management file is placed under the package directory.

5. (Previously Presented) The file management method according to claim 4, wherein said record type indicates a distinction as to whether a metadata file included in the metadata correspondence management file corresponds to a package or corresponds to a service.

6. (Previously Presented) The file management method according to claim 4, wherein the record type indicates a distinction as to whether a metadata file included in the metadata correspondence management file corresponds to a package file or corresponds to content contained in a package file.

7. (Previously Presented) The file management method according to claim 1, wherein the metadata correspondence management file indicates a one-to-one relationship between one object identifier and one metadata file identifier.

8-10. (Canceled)

11. (Currently Amended) A file management method according to claim 1, further comprising:

creating a directory for each a package when the object is the a package file;

recording, on the basis of the directory, a content file contained in the corresponding package and a metadata file corresponding to the content file;

assigning to the directory a directory name that corresponds to a package directory number assigned uniquely to the package;

managing, with a package management file, correspondence between the package directory number and a package identifier assigned to the package;

assigning to the content file and to the metadata file a name that corresponds to a content number assigned in package units when the content file and the metadata file are recorded on the recording medium;

managing, with a content file group management file, correspondence between the content number and an identifier of the content file or correspondence between the content number and an identifier of the metadata file; and

managing correspondence between an identifier of a content file contained in the package and a corresponding identifier of a metadata file, using the metadata correspondence management file.

12. (Canceled)

13. (Currently Amended) A content recording apparatus comprising:

a data recorder that records a distributed object and a metadata file on a recording medium, the metadata file being an individual file comprising information related to the object and used to retrieve, categorize, and organize the object; and

a metadata correspondence information recorder that creates and records, on the recording medium, ~~the~~ a metadata correspondence management file according to ~~claim 1 indicating~~ a correspondence between the object and the metadata file.

14. (Canceled)

15. (Currently Amended) A content playback apparatus that plays back content from a recording medium on which a distributed content file and file management information are recorded, comprising:

a metadata correspondence resolution device that uses ~~the~~ a metadata correspondence management file ~~according to claim 1~~ containing correspondence between an identifier of the content file and an identifier of a metadata file

corresponding to the content file and acquiring a metadata file corresponding to a content file.

16. (Previously Presented) The content playback apparatus according to claim 15 that, when content is distributed in package units in which related content is collected, using a metadata correspondence management file containing correspondence between an identifier of the package and an identifier of a metadata file corresponding to the package, acquires a metadata file corresponding to the package.

17. (Canceled)

18. (Previously Presented) The content playback apparatus according to claim 22 that, when content is distributed in package units in which related content is collected, using a metadata correspondence management file containing correspondence between an identifier of the package and an identifier of a metadata file corresponding to the package, acquires a metadata file corresponding to the package.

19. (Canceled)

20. (Currently Amended) A file management method according to claim 1, further comprising:

creating a directory for ~~each~~ a service when content is distributed in package units in which related content is collected;

creating, on the basis of the directory, a subdirectory for each package distributed from a related service and recording a metadata file corresponding to the related package;

assigning to the directory a directory name that corresponds to a package directory number uniquely assigned to the package;

managing, with a package management file, correspondence between the package directory number and a package identifier assigned to the package;

recording, on the basis of the subdirectory, a file of content contained in the related package, and a file of metadata corresponding to the related content;

assigning to the content file and to the metadata a file name that corresponds to a content number assigned in package units when the content file and the metadata file are recorded on the recording medium;

managing, with a content file group management file, correspondence between the content number and an identifier of the content file or correspondence between the content number and an identifier of the metadata file;

assigning to the directory a directory name that corresponds to a service directory number uniquely assigned to the service;

managing, with a service management file, correspondence between the service directory number and a service identifier assigned to the service;

assigning to the metadata file, a filename that corresponds to a metadata file number uniquely assigned in each service directory, when the metadata file is recorded on the recording medium;

8

managing, with a metadata file group management file, correspondence between the metadata file number and an identifier of the metadata file, when the metadata file is recorded on the recording medium; and

managing, with the metadata correspondence management file, correspondence between the service identifier and an identifier of the metadata file corresponding to the service identifier, correspondence between an identifier of the package and an identifier of the metadata file corresponding thereto, and correspondence between an identifier of the content file and an identifier of the metadata file corresponding thereto.

21. (Currently Amended) The content recording apparatus according to claim 13, wherein when content is distributed in package units in which related content is collected, further comprising:

a service management information recorder that creates a directory corresponding to ~~each~~ a service, assigns to the directory a directory name that corresponds to a service directory number uniquely assigned to the service, and creates and records, on the recording medium, a service management file indicating correspondence between the service directory number and a service identifier assigned to the service; and

a package metadata file recorder that assigns a file name to and that records on the recording medium, a metadata file corresponding to a metadata file number uniquely assigned in each service directory, and creates and records on the recording medium, a metadata file group management file indicating correspondence between the metadata file number of the file and an identifier of the file.

22. (Currently Amended) A content playback apparatus, comprising:

a metadata correspondence resolution device, that, when content is played back from a recording medium on which files of content, distributed from a plurality of services, and file management information are recorded on a directory created for each service, uses the file management information and acquires respective metadata files corresponding to a content file and corresponding to a service,

wherein the file management information [[is]] comprises a service management file that indicates correspondence between a service directory number uniquely corresponding to a directory name of the directory and a service identifier assigned to the service, a metadata file group management file indicating correspondence between a metadata file number uniquely corresponding to a name of a metadata file corresponding to the service and an identifier of the relevant metadata, and, ~~the~~ a metadata correspondence management file ~~according to claim 1~~ containing correspondence between an identifier of the service and an identifier of a metadata file corresponding thereto and correspondence between an identifier of a content file and an identifier of a file of metadata corresponding thereto.

23. (Previously Presented) A content recording program executed by a computer to function as:

a recorder that records a distributed object and a metadata file on a recording medium, the metadata file being an individual file having information related to the object and used to retrieve, categorize, and organize the object; and

a metadata correspondence information recorder that creates and records, on the recording medium, a metadata correspondence management file that manages correspondence between an identifier of a metadata file and an identifier of an object corresponding to the relevant metadata file.